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Brian Kellegan's Bison Designs: Another Too New To Be Cool? By Don Thornton

Brian James Kellegan established Bison Designs LLC in Longmont, Colorado in 1987 but it wasn't until 14 years later that his first patent was granted and began to multiply. Kellegan was awarded 11 design patents – five of them for bottle openers – in 2001, and by 2025 his total was an astounding 153. The vast majority of the patents were for carabiners – mental rings used in mountain climbing.

His first bottle opener design patent was granted May 22 of 2001 for a “foot shaped bottle opener,” that when it made to the market was 2 1/2-inches long with a hole for a key chain. Other popular openers of the dozen or so that were produced were the Kokopelli in 2002 and the palm tree in 2004.

(12) **United States Design Patent** (10) Patent No.: **US D442,448 S**
Kellegan (45) Date of Patent: **May 22, 2001**

(54) **FOOT SHAPED BOTTLE OPENER** D. 431,431 * 10/2000 Allen et al. D814
 1499,203 * 2/1003 Laboche 7151
 4,067,622 * 11/1990 Phillips 813,009
 5,996,277 * 2/1992 Spiller 81,488
 5,465,420 * 8/1995 Lammont et al. 283,117

(75) Inventor: **Brian James Kellegan**, Longmont, CO (US)

(73) Assignee: **Bison Designs, L.L.C.**, Longmont, CO (US) * cited by examiner

(**) Term: **14 Years**

(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Rick Martin, Patent Law Offices of Rick Martin PC.

(21) Appl. No.: **29/131,484** (57) **CLAIM**

(22) Filed: **Oct. 23, 2000**

(51) **LOC (7) CL.** D838, D9211
 (52) **U.S. CL.** D838, D9211

(58) **Field of Search** D815, 16, 17; 30,400-443; 813,073-349; 7,151-156; D3,208, 210, 211

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

D. 003,634 * 12/1990 Todd, Jr. D3,210
 D. 217,086 * 8/1978 Desjardins D3,793
 D. 252,541 * 8/1979 Harper D8,211
 D. 388,496 * 8/1996 Sager D4,117,4
 D. 375,029 * 10/1996 Tsoa D8,41
 D. 382,784 * 8/1997 Sugiama et al. D8,40
 D. 383,651 * 9/1997 Wyk D8,34
 D. 403,726 * 8/1998 Sweeney D25,113
 D. 403,738 * 1/1998 Wolff D26,25
 D. 428,695 * 8/2000 Rothschild D3,211

DESCRIPTION

FIG. 1 is a top or bottom plan view of my new design for a foot shaped bottle opener.

FIG. 2 is a front plan view of the bottle opener shown in FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a rear side plan view of the bottle opener shown in FIG. 1.

FIG. 4 is a right side plan view of the bottle opener shown in FIG. 1.

FIG. 5 is a left side plan view of the bottle opener shown in FIG. 1.

FIG. 6 is a left side perspective view of the bottle opener shown in FIG. 1, and,

FIG. 7 is a top perspective view of the bottle opener shown in FIG. 1.

1 Claim, 1 Drawing Sheet



(12) **United States Design Patent** (10) Patent No.: **US D453,454 S**
Kellegan (45) Date of Patent: **Feb. 12, 2002**

(54) **KOKOPELLI SHAPED BOTTLE OPENER** Primary Examiner—Caron D. Veynar
 (74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Rick Martin, Patent Law Offices of Rick Martin, PC.

(75) Inventor: **Brian James Kellegan**, Longmont, CO (US) (57) **CLAIM**

(73) Assignee: **Bison Designs, L.L.C.**, Longmont, CO (US) The ornamental design for a kokopelli shaped bottle opener, as shown and described.

(**) Term: **14 Years**

(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Rick Martin, Patent Law Offices of Rick Martin, PC.

(21) Appl. No.: **29/138,548** (57) **CLAIM**

(22) Filed: **Mar. 15, 2001**

(51) **LOC (7) CL.** D838, D9211
 (52) **U.S. CL.** D838, D9211

(58) **Field of Search** 7,151-156; 813,073-349

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

D48,762 S * 12/1914 Vaughan D818
 D48,767 S * 10/1918 Halding D1,143
 D196,091 S * 8/1963 Harwell D838

* cited by examiner

DESCRIPTION

FIG. 1 is a plan view of the top and bottom sides, which are mirror images of each other, of my new design for a kokopelli shaped bottle opener.

FIG. 2 is a right side plan view of the bottle opener shown in FIG. 1.

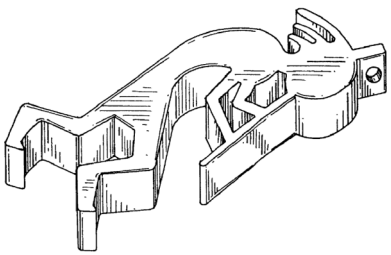
FIG. 3 is a left side plan view of the bottle opener shown in FIG. 1.

FIG. 4 is a front side plan view of the bottle opener shown in FIG. 1.

FIG. 5 is a rear side plan view of the bottle opener shown in FIG. 1, and,

FIG. 6 is a top perspective view of the bottle opener shown in FIG. 1.

1 Claim, 1 Drawing Sheet



(12) **United States Design Patent** (10) Patent No.: **US D488,971 S**
Kellegan (45) Date of Patent: **Apr. 27, 2004**

(54) **PALM TREE SHAPED BOTTLE OPENER** OTHER PUBLICATIONS
 www.openersplus.com Feb. 11, 2003 Title: Openers. Printout of clip art used as design inspiration. No other information known, date unknown.

(75) Inventor: **Brian James Kellegan**, Longmont, CO (US) * cited by examiner

(73) Assignee: **Bison Designs, L.L.C.**, Longmont, CO (US) Primary Examiner—Caron D. Veynar
 (74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Margaret Polson, Patent Law Offices of Rick Martin, PC.

(**) Term: **14 Years** (57) **CLAIM**

(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Margaret Polson, Patent Law Offices of Rick Martin, PC.

(21) Appl. No.: **29/174,581** (57) **CLAIM**

(22) Filed: **Jan. 21, 2003** The ornamental design for a palm tree shaped bottle opener, as shown.

(51) **LOC (7) CL.** D838, D9211
 (52) **U.S. CL.** D838, D9211

(58) **Field of Search** D817-19, 33-43; D11,118, 157-162; D19,82; 7,151-156; 30,400-450; 813,073-349; D6,503, D9,335

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

D343,318 S * 1/1994 Cutillo D6,503
 D349,454 S * 8/1994 Shumway et al. D9,335

DESCRIPTION

FIG. 1 is a top plan view of my new design for a palm tree shaped bottle opener.

FIG. 2 is a bottom plan view of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a right side elevation view of FIG. 1.

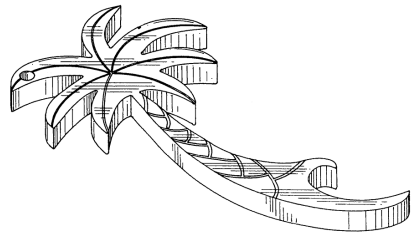
FIG. 4 is a left side elevation view of FIG. 1.

FIG. 5 is a front side elevation view of FIG. 1.

FIG. 6 is a back side view of FIG. 1, and,

FIG. 7 is a top perspective view of FIG. 1.

1 Claim, 1 Drawing Sheet


















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This is how Bison describes itself: "Over the years, our product line has continued to expand, to include a large variety of pet accessories, paracord survival accessories, unique and custom aluminum accessories (including carabiners, bottle openers, and more), as well as a number of chalk related products... and our products can be found in thousands of outdoor and pet specialty stores throughout the United States." Bison also sells its products direct to the public from its website, but it should be noted, isn't into branding.

Kelleghan products, like those of James Douglas Welch of Getagadget of Austin, Texas, are probably too contemporary to draw the attention of today's JFO world. However, there's a chance they may fascinate future JFOers, if crown caps are still around. And Kelleghan, like Welch, can be compared to the early 20th Century novelty opener royalty of Harry L. Vaughan, John L. Sommer and Thomas Harding (see *The King of Novelty Branding* and *Combo Opener Kings*, JFO News 2025) despite the fact Bison does not offer branding of its products.






Of Kelleghan's patents, 149 are design patents (how it looks) and three are utility patents (how it works). Most of the patents are for carabiners (73) followed by bottle openers (35). Others include several belt and other buckles, visors and flashlights. Several bottle openers are featured on the Bison website.






				
BASS CARABINER \$6.50	Bear \$5.00	HOKEY \$16.50	Trout Carabiner \$6.50	Fireman's Axe \$4.00
				
Ice Axe \$6.00	Beer Belay \$4.00	Bicycle \$5.00	Bison \$6.00	Bone Fish \$5.00
				
Cactus \$5.00	Canoe Paddle \$5.00	Carabiner & Opener \$6.00	Classic \$5.00	Deer \$5.00






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Dolphin \$6.00	Elk \$5.00	Fish Hook \$4.00	Guitar \$5.00	Horse Head \$4.00

				
Motorcycle \$5.00	Multi Hex \$5.00	Palm Tree \$5.00	Parrot \$5.00	Paw Print \$6.00

				
Pheasant \$5.00	Pick Pocket Guitar \$9.00	Porpoise \$4.00	Prybar \$3.00	Sandal \$6.00

				
Saxophone \$3.00	Sea Horse \$5.00	Shotgun \$5.00	Snowboard Bottle Opener \$5.00	Turtle \$5.00

				
Stainless Steel Carabiner & Opener \$9.00	Stainless Steel & Bottle Opener - Wolf \$10.50	Stainless Steel Carabiner & Bottle Opener - Bear Paw \$10.50	Stainless Steel Carabiner & Bottle Opener - Flower \$10.50	Stainless Steel Carabiner & Opener - Moose \$10.50

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Brian Kellegan's Bison Designs:

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Brian Kellegan Bottle Opener Patents		
Foot D442,448	Kayak D442,838	Guitar D449,500
Toothed Fish D451,774	Gecko D452,123	Kokopelli D453,454
Lantern D453,455	Alien Tool Opener D466,768	Yin-Yang D466,769
Round Tool Opener D466,770	Oval Tool Opener D467,480	Star Tool Opener D472,435
Saw D473,769	Fish Hook D476,640	Nut D482,251
Parrot D488,970	Palm Tree D488,971	Fish Skeleton D488,972
Turtle D488,973	Tiki D488,974	Snowshoe D495,570
Surfboard D495,937	Hammer D497,087	Shark D500,648
Sea Turtle D501,787	Ice Axe D504,289	Saw D504,599
Deer D516,886	Fire Axe D518,886	Dolphin D517,881
Fish D5210,825	Guitar Opener & Pick Holder D544,767	Saxophone D568,128
Canoe Paddle D588,425	Belt Buckle D622,178	



Bison Patented Beer Openers